



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Dear Fellow Californians,

The warm weather months of May through October often bring children and families outside near swimming pools, lakes and rivers. Sadly, it is also a time when drowning accidents tend to occur.

In California, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children under the age of five. In 2003, 56 children under the age of five lost their lives in drowning accidents. Half of all child drowning incidents occur in residential swimming pools.

Children who survive drowning accidents often suffer permanent brain damage resulting in developmental disabilities. More than 655 survivors of these accidents now receive lifelong services through the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) regional and developmental centers.

DDS and the California Department of Health Services, in cooperation with the Drowning Prevention Foundation, have developed a public education awareness program to help prevent child drowning accidents. I encourage you to learn about this important campaign and review the prevention methods that help keep kids safe near water.

I wish you a fun and safe summer and every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Arnold" clearly legible and the last name "Schwarzenegger" written in a more fluid, connected script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger